

Amendments To The Claims

Please cancel Claims 1, 4 to 6, 14, 16 to 22, and 25 to 27, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 23 and 24, as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The vessel of claim 1, further comprising~~ A vessel comprising:
a center hull;
a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;
a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull;
at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls; and
a ramp coupled to a first end of the center hull hull,
wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first
and second side hulls.
3. (Original) The vessel of claim 2, further comprising another ramp coupled to a second end of the center hull.
4. to 6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising: ~~The vessel of claim 6,~~
a center hull;
a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;
a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull;

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at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls; and
a lifting mechanism configured to vertically translate the center hull with respect to the
first and second side hulls,
wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first
and second side hulls,
wherein the lifting mechanism includes a plurality of hydraulic actuators coupled
between the center hull and the first and second side hulls, and
wherein the hydraulic actuators are disposed in the side hulls.

8. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising: ~~The vessel of claim 4,~~
a center hull;
a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;
a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull;
at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls; and
a lifting mechanism configured to vertically translate the center hull with respect to the
first and second side hulls,
wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first
and second side hulls, and
wherein the lifting mechanism includes a plurality of ballast tanks disposed in the center
hull and in the side hulls.

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9. (Original) The vessel of claim 8, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks.

10. (Original) The vessel of claim 8, wherein the center hull is configured to be tilted by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks.

11. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising: The vessel of claim 1,

a center hull;

a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;

a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull; and

at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls;

wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first

and second side hulls, and

wherein the side hulls are wing walls.

12. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising: The vessel of claim 1,

a center hull;

a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;

a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull; and

at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls;

wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first

and second side hulls, and

wherein the side hulls include a plurality of guides, and the center hull includes a plurality of lifting blocks configured to engage the guides to vertically guide the center hull during vertical translation thereof.

13. (Original) The vessel of claim 12, wherein the lifting blocks are coupled to the lifting mechanism to vertically translate the center hull.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising: The vessel of claim 1,
a center hull;
a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;
a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull; and
at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls;
wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first
and second side hulls, and

wherein the side hulls are configured to be lifted above a surface of a body of water.

16. to 22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The vessel of claim 22, further comprising~~ A vessel comprising:
a center hull;
a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;
a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull; and
at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls;

wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls,

wherein the first side hull includes one or more struts coupled to one or more hulls,

wherein the second side hull includes one or more struts coupled to one or more hulls,

and

wherein the struts are vertically disposed.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The vessel of claim 22, further comprising~~ A vessel comprising:

a center hull;

a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;

a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull; and

at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls;

wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls,

wherein the first side hull includes one or more struts coupled to one or more hulls,

wherein the second side hull includes one or more struts coupled to one or more hulls,

and

wherein the struts are canted.

25. to 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A vessel comprising:

a center hull that includes a first plurality of ballast tanks;

a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull, the first side hull including a second plurality of ballast tanks;

a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull, the second side hull including a third plurality of ballast tanks; and

at least one cross support configured to couple the first and second side hulls,

wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks.

29. (Original) The vessel of claim 28, further comprising a first ramp coupled to a first end of the center hull.

30. (Original) The vessel of claim 29, further comprising a second ramp coupled to a second end of the center hull.

31. (Original) The vessel of claim 28, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the vessel.

32. (Original) The vessel of claim 28, wherein the side hulls are wing walls.

33. (Original) The vessel of claim 28, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls increases when the center hull is translated upward.

34. (Original) The vessel of claim 28, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls decreases when the center hull translated downward.

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35. (Original) The vessel of claim 28, wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the vessel.

36. (Original) A vessel comprising:

a central hull;

a plurality of struts coupled to the central hull, the struts extending downward with respect to the central hull;

a plurality of pods coupled to the struts; and

a plurality of floatation devices slidably coupled to the struts, wherein a draft of the pods is configured to be increased or decreased by vertically translating the floatation devices.

37. (Original) The vessel of claim 36, wherein the plurality of pods includes at least a first pod and a second pod.

38. (Original) The vessel of claim 37, wherein the plurality of floatation devices includes at least a first floatation device and a second floatation device.

39. (Original) The vessel of claim 38, wherein the plurality of struts includes at least a first forward strut, a second forward strut, a first aft strut, and a second aft strut.

40. (Original) The vessel of claim 39, wherein the first forward strut and the first aft strut are coupled to a first side of the central hull, and the second forward strut and the second aft strut are coupled to a second side of the central hull.

41. (Original) The vessel of claim 40, wherein the first pod is slidably coupled to the first forward strut and the first aft strut, and the second pod is slidably coupled to the second forward strut and the second aft strut.

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42. (Original) The vessel of claim 36, wherein the plurality of floatation devices includes a number of floatation devices corresponding to a number of struts including in the plurality of struts.

43. (Original) The vessel of claim 42, wherein one or more of the floatation devices are configured to be vertically translated to tilt the vessel.